

9/10/70

Dear Phil,

Glad,soorry to get your card of the 5th today. There must be ESP, ofr I've been hoping to find time to write you. Beennon my mind some time.

You say "sigh". Is that good with two broken ribs? Even if as I hope they are heeling well?

Remarkable coincidence. Heard from Jack Frazier in N.O. also today, first word from there in months. He and Howie Comen had the Ryder. Did you ever know either?

Staying busy. My book on Tay has been abstracted from an enormous work and is now in production, each new estimate on production delaying it a bit more when the time is now. I have also supplied Ray with his newest lawyer and him/Ray with the essence of the defense. What it takes to be a writer today!

Turned down earlier major-publisher offer to do a book on what I'd done rather than on the work itself. This one will be by the only publisher not smaller than I ~~am~~ am, which is pretty small. He is excited but, being a publisher, he never keeps his word. There is a conspiracy, a publisher conspiracy, to delay topical books, to keep books from being as topical as they can.

The worse than usually bad typing is to get this done before a Ray alwyer, now overdue, gets here.

The one thing that can be said for hospitalization and convalescence is that they provide time for reading. Jaybe you got Steppenwulf read then, too?

Little else new here. Tiring more, almost perceptibly, daily. I guess anxiety is checked. Switched to Valium 5, which I rarely take.

A new and beautiful season is about due. As the water gets too cool for swimming and the first leaves begin to fall I know there will soon be that marvelous display of colors that greets my eye as it leaves the typewriter and looks up the side of the mountain out the window. Wish I had time to take the pictures to show the rapport we have established with the small wild animals. Rabbits come up to the house to eat. During wintertime, so do the birds, the mallards even refusing to dine save off the lowest of the kitchen steps. We stocked the pond with large-mouth bass and golden trout, all of whom now come at the sound of the human voice and fight for the tossed food. The more powerful bass now jumpr out of the water to get it.

It is lovely. Hope you and Jean can get here sometime soon.

Best to you both, complete recovery-and no after effects.

Openfully